

Meeting Minutes

Virginia Indian Advisory Board on State Recognition

Thursday, October 7, 2021

3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Patrick Henry Building, West Reading Room
1111 E. Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Taking Meeting Minutes: Abbey Philips, Assistant Secretary of the Commonwealth

- **Meeting Began at 3:10pm Welcome and Roll Call**
Brandon Custalow, *Chair, Virginia Indian Advisory Board on State Recognition*,
- **Present for the meeting**
 - Brandon Custalow
 - Cami Adkins, Joining Virtually
 - Dr. Ashley Atkins Spivey, Joining Virtually
 - Dr. Rosa Atkins
 - Julie Langan
 - Dr. Gregg Kimball
 - Young Brinson
- **Staff Present**
 - Kelly Thomasson, Secretary of the Commonwealth
 - Abbey Philips, Assistant Secretary of the Commonwealth
- **Self- Introductions of the Advisory Board Members**
 - Each member of the board introduced themselves
- **Agenda Adoption**
 - Greg Kimball moved to approve adoption of the agenda
 - Julie Langan seconds
 - Agenda approved by the board by voice vote
- **Board Administration Update**
 - **Kelly Thomasson**, *Secretary of the Commonwealth*
 - Board's Purpose & Powers, Review handout.
 - The purpose of this board was to establish criteria and process for accepting applications- these items are done
 - The next step is to appoint the Workgroup, this is the primary purpose of our meeting today.
 - The Workgroup will review any petitions that have been submitted and then they will make a recommendation, provide that to the

board and the board will subsequently vote on the recommendation.

- The Wolf Creek Tribe has submitted a petition
- The Wolf Creek Tribe hopes to have a recommendation before the next Virginia General Assembly Session
- Brief overview of the requirements of appointing the Workgroup
- Brief overview of the duties of the workgroup and the recognition criteria

■ **FOIA Overview**

- This Advisory board is subject to the Freedom of Information Act. This is a public body and everything that is done is open for the public to participate. Everything that the Board does has to be done in a public and in a transparent manner.
- If you are a group of 3 or more meetings from the Board, you cannot discuss board matters without having a public meeting that provides public notice.
- Please do not delete emails related to the Board- it is public information.
- Board members can copy Kelly or Abbey who keep records of all their emails, and this can help everyone with keeping track of their publicly accessible board emails.

■ **Confidentiality Agreement**

- Sign the confidentiality agreement
- Dr. Ashley Atkins Spivey, who joined virtually requesting a copy of the confidentiality agreement.

■ **Petition**

- Acknowledging the Wolf Creek Cherokee Tribe's patience with this process, a petition was submitted just before the COVID-19 pandemic. Secretary Thomasson noted her public apology of this process taking longer than expected.

3:35 p.m. Public Comment

● **Comment from Annett Cooley Price**

- Very important for all Native Tribes to be acknowledged in Virginia
- Chief Price has provided education, heritage and culture from his tribe, through his museum outreach and more.
- There is so much through this culture and heritage that is being ignored by the state of Virginia.
- It has been 6 years since the Wolf Creek Cherokee Tribe has sought recognition.
- What does state recognition gain for this tribe: money- no, land-no, but it might help provide opportunities for them to get grants so they can get support with things like their archeological dig.
- Please help the Wolf Creek Tribe become the 12th State recognized Tribe.

● **Comment from Chief Terry Price**

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- Offered thanks and looking forward to working with the Board.
 - **New Business**
 - **Kelly Thomasson, *Secretary of the Commonwealth***
 - The Wolf Creek submitted a letter of intent on October 8, 2019 that they would be submitting a petition and subsequently submitted a petition in January 2020 Receipt of petition.
 - Now that this petition has been received it is time for the Board to meet and appoint a workgroup.
 - **Discussion on appointing the Workgroup on Tribal Recognition lead by Brandon Custalow:**
 - Requirements: Minimum of 3 members maximum of 5
 - 1 genealogist and two members of the scholarly community
 - Recommendation from Cami Adkins:
 - Recommended Pamela Ross, member of the Chickahominy Tribe
 - Recommendations from Dr. Langan's suggestion:
 - Anthropologist suggestion: Danielle Moretti-Langholtz. She came highly recommended by the archeologist that works in Dr. Langan's office.
 - Anthropologist suggestion Martin Gallivan- professor from William and Mary - has done significant work on Native American archeological sites
 - Anthropologist Suggestion: Buck Woodward, American University.
Brandon notes Buck has worked with the Mattaponi.
 - Recommendations from Dr. Kimball:
 - Dr. Kimball notes that he thought it would be useful to have members that had some knowledge on the Cherokee Tribe
 - Trey Adcock, UNC- Asheville
 - Julie Reed- Penn State, History
 - Recommendations from Dr. Ashley Spivey:
 - Jean Kelly -genealogy recommendation- she has experience in doing genealogy with 4 different tribes
 - Martha McCartney- prolific historian in Virginia Indian history
 - Recommendation from Young Brinson:
 - Kianga Lucas -genealogy recommendation, has experience doing genealogy with Tribes, including Mattaponi and Chickahominy.
 - Board Discussion on the timeframe for when this Workgroup needs to be appointed and what priorities the Board has regarding representation and expertise of the Workgroup.
 - Board took time to review the letter that William Hurd sent on behalf of the Wolf Creek Cherokee Tribe.
 - Mr. Custalow expressed that historians and scholars are important for the workgroup, and having citizens who are from a Tribal community would also be important.

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- Dr. Langan- ideally we have two anthropologists- one with expertise in Cherokee History and one with expertise in Virginia Tribes; additionally having a historian who has expertise on Virginia Tribes, a citizen member and a genealogist.
 - All Board members express agreement with this make-up
 - Ms. Brinson highly recommended her cousin Kianga because of her extensive work with multiple tribes. Believes she recently got her genealogist certification.
 - Dr. Kimball shared that there are several genealogist accreditation that are available. There are two tiers that are roughly about equal but experience is also helpful.
 - Dr. Spivey agreed with what Young is stating that experience with multiple tribes is really important. Notes that she will also provide Jean Kelly's information as the other genealogist that was suggested.
 - Dr. Langan- of the 3 she recommended, she thought Danielle or Buck may be best. Buck and Danielle have both worked with the Mattaponi Tribe.
 - Discussion the make-up of the Workgroup members:
 - Virginia Indian Historical Anthropologist:
 - Reach out to Buck first and then Danielle
 - Historical Anthropologist with Expertise in Cherokee Tribe:
 - Dr. Greg Smithers, VCU Historian & Professor (he also might have suggestions for an anthropologist)
 - Julie Reed, Penn State Historian & Professor
 - Genologist
 - Table for now so everyone has time to look at bios (SOC office with get bios and send)
 - Citizen Member
 - Chief Lynette Allston - someone who has gone through the recognition process more recently- though she may not have capacity
 - Victoria (Vicki) Ferguson, Monacan Nation
 - Pamela Ross, Chickahominy Tribe
 - Sec. Thomasson - follow up actions the SOC office will take and follow up with the board to report back:
 - Bios for genealogist
 - Reaching to to Greg Smithers to:
 - See if he is interested in joining the workgroup
 - See if he has recommendation for anthropologist that has expertise with the Cherokee Tribe
 - Reaching out to Vicki Ferguson to see if she is interested in serving on the Workgroup
 - Reach out to Buck Woodward first to see if he is interested in serving on the workgroup
 - SOC office will send out a poll to convene the next meeting to vote on the workgroup appointees

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- **Meeting Adjourned at 4:20pm by Brandon Custalow, Chair, Virginia Indian Advisory Board on State Recognition**